



Department
for Work &
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of
Information Team
Caxton House
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SW1H 9NA

David Jameson
request-1053132-cc82369a@whatdotheyknow.com

[freedom-of-information-
request@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk)

[DWP Website](#)

Our Ref: FOI2024/00081

24 January 2024

Dear David Jameson,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 2 January. You wrote:

“In answer to your question my request is about DWP employees who have been convicted of a criminal offence resulting in loss of public funds.

[Over the last 5 years by either by month or year can I please know

1. The number of staff who were employed by the DWP who illegally took money within the course of employment from the DWP (public funds)
2. The amount of money taken if possible for each case or if this is not possible a total either month or year

I have read a number of cases in the media where staff who were employed by the DWP within the course of employment illegally took money therefore this is public information . You can format this as you wish in line with DPA / FOI in the easiest cost effective manner for you. If 5 years exceeds the cost I will accept 3 years worth of data I would prefer the data by month but if this is not possible I will accept a total by year]”

DWP Response

We can confirm that we may hold information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending at least 3½ working days (equivalent to 24 staff-hours) in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Under Section 12(1) of the Fol Act the Department is not therefore obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing it further.

The Department is unable to provide any of the information you seek within the appropriate cost limit as you have asked for information which would be held at a local or individual level, and this would require a manual sift of individual cases to obtain.

Under Section 16 of the Fol Act we should help you narrow your request so that it may fall

beneath the cost limit.

The Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA) provides counter fraud services on behalf of DWP. This includes the investigation of allegations of fraud or serious misconduct by DWP employees. The information would solely relate to cases investigated by GIAA and would not include any other matters dealt with by DWP that could fall within the criteria of the Fol.

DWP can obtain the following information from GIAA regarding the cases that they have handled between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2023.

- The total number of cases
- The total amount of funds involved regarding DWP employees

We will consider afresh any revised request however we cannot guarantee that any revised request will fall within the cost limit as each Fol request is judged on its own merits.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team
Department for Work and Pensions

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-reqxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx or by writing to: DWP Central Fol Team, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA.

Any request for an internal review must be received by us within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please note we are not obliged to provide a review if it is requested after more than 40 working days.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Website: [ICO FOI and EIR complaints](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.